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RUSSIAN COM-MUNIST INDOCTRINATION PROGRAM AMONG AUSTRIAN PW'S

Reference is made to Department of the Army Control No. WE-827. This report has been prepared from information supplied to USFA Field Collecting Agencies by confidential informants and returned PW's who received Antifa schooling in the USSR. Additional material was obtained from sources of the same type through the Intelligence Organization of the British Element in Austria. The material is considered reliable and is given an overall evaluation of C-3.

Headquarters School for Antifa Training in Moscow, USSR

The headquarters school for Communist indoctrination, or Antifa (Anti-Fascist) training as it was called among Prisoners of War in the USSR, was located in the artillery barracks on Pushkinskaya Street and bore the official title "Polit shkola diya antifashiskoye nauk" (Political School for Anti-Fascist Doctrine). It was also known among PW's as the "Lenin School" and the "Free Germany School". USFA sources indicate that this headquarters indoctrination school began operations in the spring of 1943 with a nine months' training program. Initial indications of a Communist training program for PW's in Russia were given early in 1943 in the form of a proclamation issued by General von Paulus calling on German Prisoners of War to join the "Free Germany Movement". It is certain that the school was still in operation as late as the Spring of 1948. It is not known whether the school has continued in operation to the present.

At the time of entry into the school, students were told that the purpose of their training was to give them a basic knowledge of Communist doctrine that would enable them to take over political leadership in their countries of origin after their repatriation. The students were generally promised a speedy return home upon completion of their schooling, but the great majority of them were retained in the Soviet Union for periods up to three years after their schooling was completed. All applicants for admission to the Moscow School were given a careful, preliminary screening by the MVD in whatever area they were located, in order to determine their suitability for absorbing Communist ideology and training. One source, who attended the school from December 1944 to July 1945, states that persons claiming prior membership in the Austrian or German Communist Parties were rejected as "traitors" since they had fought with the German Army. Landowners, merchants, businessmen and similar "bourgeois" types were also apparently categorically rejected on the assumption that their background was corrupt and they were unlikely material for Communist indoctrination. Throughout 1943 at least, applicants were accepted only from the ranks of "old PW's", i.e. persons captured prior to the German demise at Stalingrad. Little emphasis seems to have been laid on a person's political background, since minor Nazi Party members and functionaries of the Hitler Youth were accepted. Company grade officers were sometimes admitted to the school, but in general, candidates from the enlisted ranks were preferred.

Antifa Affiliations with the MVD

The Antifa schooling program seems at all levels to have been closely supervised and directed by MVD personnel. General Franek, for example, (see ODI, USFA Report No. R-171-48, Subject: "Repatriated Austrian General and Staff Officers") was titular head of the Austrian Section of the "Free Germany Movement", but his official deputy was a Russian MVD Lieutenant General Petrov, 47 - 48 years of age, partly bald with graying hair, decorated with the Order of Lenin, who was and perhaps still is, Commanding General of the 2nd White Russian Guards. Petrov also functioned for the Austrian Section as head of the Propaganda Department. Petrov's adjutant for school purposes was an MVD Major Suvorov, 40 - 45 years of age, 165 cms tall, with dark hair and a paralyzed left arm. Before the war Suvorov was a sports instructor in BIALSKI (E3421 - 15315) and he is reported to be generally under the influence of

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School Program

Section I	150 Austrian PWs
Section II	100 German PWs
Section III	100 Rumanian PWs
Section IV	150 Italian PWs
Section V	150 Yugoslav PWs

0500 - 0700	hours	Reveille, calisthenics, breakfast
0700 - 1100	"	Classes
1100 - 1400	"	Lunch, study period
1400 - 1800	"	Tests, discussion
1800 - 2000	"	Supper, free time
2000 - 2300	"	Seminars, discussions
2300	"	Lights out

1. 1. Armed Forces Synopsis of the October Revolution
 - a. Communist organization in Moscow, or VKP 6 as it was formally termed at the school
 - b. Thoughts of Lenin-Stalin on the mission of Armed Forces
2. The Soviet Army as a Peoples Army
 - a. Definition: It defends freedom; it is an army for the fraternity and friendship among all nations which it defends, and it is the best peacetime army in the world.

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REPORT NO. B-45-49

PAGE NO. 3.

3. Organization of the Armed Forces in the Post-War Period, value and importance of every unit.
4. Mission of the Soviet Armed Forces in the Post-War Period.

II. Students were told that Subjects II and XI dealt with Intelligence and Counter-intelligence. Instruction was given only to Soviet soldiers and not to foreigners.

III. The Armed Forces Oath of Allegiance.

- IV. 1. Lenin and Stalin. The significance of discipline. Orders as the basis of army life, significance of orders in discipline and schooling and training of soldiers. Program of the Armed Forces. Origin of military science and experiences during the war.
2. Importance of the duty of members of the Armed Forces.
3. The most important facts of Army service: regulations for interior guard, garrison duty, disciplinary service and manual of arms. Close order drill.

- V. 1. Speeches of Lenin and Stalin on the importance of discipline in the Soviet Army.
 - a. Definition of discipline.
 2. Basis of Soviet military discipline.
 - a. Main power of the Army and Navy. Basis for the existence of units.
 - b. The guarantee of successful execution of orders in times of war and peace.
 - c. The order of a superior is law to subordinates.
 - d. Military courtesy. The well-rendered salute.
 - e. Military attention signifies military discipline.
 3. Disciplinary practices in the Soviet Armed Forces.
 4. Preservation of discipline is the duty of every member of the Armed Forces.

VI. Lenin and Stalin.

1. Capitalist encirclement of the Soviet Union requires revolutionary vigilance.
2. Indispensability of vigilance. Latest regulations of the Supreme Soviet concerning the betrayal of state or military secrets.
3. Compilation of State secrets.

VII. Lenin

1. Faithful study of military duties are in conformity with oath of allegiance.
2. The preparation of the Armed Forces for military service is the mission of military leadership.
3. Stalin on the duties and regulations of the Armed Forces.

VIII. Stalin

1. The mission of the Soviet Army is safeguarding the peace and the institutions of the Soviet people.

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REPORT NO.

PAGE NO.

2. Mission and significance of the defense and protection of Peoples property.

3. Rights and duties of guards.

IX. 1. Morale of the Soviet Army.

2. Guiding principles of Soviet citizens.

3. The Soviet constitution of Stalin is the basic principle of the Soviet people.

4. The military oath of allegiance is the expression of the right of Soviet leadership.

X. 1. Tradition and its value in training of troops.

2. Compilation of war traditions of the Soviet Army.

3. Tradition of the Soviet soldier.

XI. See Subject II above. Not taught to foreigners.

XII. 1. Stalin on the mission of the Armed Forces in the Post-war Period.

2. Basic duties of a soldier.

3. Guiding principles and training of the Armed Forces.

4. Living and learning according to the Communist Program. Execution of orders concerning the safe-guarding of labor and peace.

This preliminary course of six months was followed by one of three months, taught in both German and Russian. Subjects were Leninism, Stalinism, Collective Economy, Propaganda and a special course "Training for WVD Service". A USFA source gave the following verbal outline of the latter course:

1. The main mission of the WVD in the post-war period is to guard and observe all plants, mines, communications, etc. and to keep employees in such installations under surveillance. It is further the duty of WVD personnel to prevent sabotage and stoppages of work, to unmask reactionaries and "anti-Soviet agents of foreign powers". The following were considered the initial indications of a man trying to commit sabotage:

- a. He is found at places other than his assigned place of work.
- b. He is interested in sections of a plant other than the one in which he is employed.
- c. He ruins or spoils machinery.
- d. He does not fulfill his work norm one hundred percent.

A person trying to commit sabotage of his own volition or on orders from others will act as above and, in addition, he will wander throughout the installation where he is employed attempting to gather information.

2. A person plotting escape is to be identified by the fact that he:

- a. Tries to collect as much money as possible.
- b. Attempts to ascertain the condition of roads and means of transportation in the region from which he desires to escape.
- c. Watches closely the changing of the guard.
- d. Is very quiet and determined.

3. To insure discipline and strict secrecy of orders, suspects will be watched inconspicuously, casually engaged in conversation. The following

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FORM 17C-1 (Rev. 1-55) 1-55

principles of procedure will be observed:

- a. No one shall be informed of the mission.
- b. No one shall be asked to assist in the surveillance of a suspect.
- c. No operative shall make himself conspicuous by staying away from usual company.
- d. The suspect will be engaged in conversation concerning anti-Soviet propaganda and working conditions.
- e. The operative will tell the suspect that he was a member of the SS, or that he participated in the destruction of plants, villages, bridges, etc. He may also pretend to be a PW plotting escape.
- f. Every word of the suspect's answers and comments will be written down precisely and reported to the Political Officer.
- g. During political meetings all participants will be observed, all remarks they make will be written down and reported to the Political Officer.

4. Successful execution of orders:

- a. An order has to be executed immediately and accurately. At any time after the event one should be able to report on it with certainty. Only facts and no conjectures will be reported.

5. Unmasking of individual anti-Soviet provocateurs in PW camps:

- a. The main task is to act inconspicuously. A conversation should be started circumspectly with the suspect and the operative will encourage him to talk by making some anti-Soviet comments.
- b. Unobserved, write down all remarks of suspect and report them to the Political Officer.
- c. Orders for safeguarding industries and supervising labor will meet with strict compliance. Every worker must be watched to see that he does his job without loafing.

6. The following extracts from the IVD Court-martial regulations were especially stressed:

Section Five: Every interpreter is obliged to interpret completely and exactly, adding or omitting nothing. Incorrect or incomplete translations or interpretations are punishable by sentences of two to five years.

Section 72: Statements must be made correctly, with nothing added or omitted. Incorrect statements will be punished with a sentence of five to fifteen years.

All available USPA sources agree that during the entire period of instruction students were obliged to observe and report on each other and signed a statement agreeing to do so before the schooling began. Reports were submitted at ten day intervals by each student on all that he had seen or heard in the way of rumors, private discussions and opinions. Failure to submit reports resulted in expulsion from the school and return to a PW camp. Upon completion of the school the Austrian students were supposedly issued the following orders:

- a. Subsequent to repatriation they would refrain from joining the Communist Party of Austria.
- b. Join any existent Trade Union and attempt to gain a position as functionary.
- c. Maintain individual contact with high level Austrian Communist officials from whom they would receive their special instructions. They would also maintain contact with other Antifa graduates in the country of their origin.

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PAGE NO.

Job Placement After Graduation

Originally upon completion of the second course at the "Lenin School", students were issued regular Soviet army uniforms and Russian identity documents. With these uniforms the students wore a brassard showing the national colors of the country of origin. Those for Austrians were red, white and red in alternate stripes and for Germans red white and black. After the German capitulation the brassards were discontinued and the graduates wore shoulder patches. At least one complete graduating class in October 1944 was marched through the streets of Moscow for propaganda purposes to mark the completion of their training.

All graduates were placed in jobs. Some of them examined papers taken from dead soldiers and PWs to find names and addresses that could be broadcast over the Soviet radio. Others wrote propaganda pamphlets, gave radio talks or addressed meetings in PW camps. All of the men so occupied were permitted to wear Soviet uniforms or civilian clothes. One source reports that after the German capitulation active recruiting for the "Free Germany Movement" ceased and all attention was concentrated on exhorting the prisoners to work harder and to produce more for the Socialist Reconstruction of Russia. Although the original "Free Germany Committee" had members of German, Austrian, Polish, Czech, Hungarian, etc. nationality, after August 1945 a reorganization took place in the form of "National Committees" with sub-sections for each nationality. One source goes so far as to indicate that by 1948 the Soviets had lost any real interest in developing "anti-fascist" agents among the Austrians and were concentrating their attention on available Germans and Hungarians. It is not known to USFA sources if the main school in Moscow was discontinued or is still in operation.

Subordinate Antifa Schools

As of summer 1948 there was a "Free Germany School No. 5" located at NOVOSIBIRSK (E8259 - N5510) in the local school building across the street from the 'VD building. One USFA source indicates that the local school was used for advanced Antifa training given to selected graduates of the main school in Moscow.

Camp 7099/1, Karaganda (E7310 - N4952)

Camp 7099/1 at Karaganda was the headquarters of the Antifa and political schooling for the whole of Kazakhstan, SSR and was administered directly from 'VD headquarters in Moscow. Regular courses lasted three months and were conducted under the local 'VD offices. The first course reportedly began in June 1947 and was attended by eighty PWs of mixed nationality. A few successful candidates were repatriated upon completion of their course and the remainder were assigned to other PW camps to perform as "activists". At the end of the first course all students were instructed to write an article stating their reactions to the Soviet way of life. Suitable essays were translated into Russian and reproduced in Russian newspapers and magazines. Students at this school were not required to do any manual work and were given an additional food ration. A second course at the same school began in October 1947 and was attended by thirty Germans, fifteen Rumanians and fifteen Japanese. The chief activist was a German citizen, WEIBICH, who worked directly under the local 'VD chief for Kazakhstan area, Colonel LEBBEDEV. Other instructors at the school were Karl GUEITIG, from Frankfurt am Main, Karl GRIESS and Fritz REDLICH, both German citizens whose city of origin is unknown. The camp had a small library stocked with news sheets and pamphlets.

In camp 7099/19, part of the Karaganda combine, Antifa activities were limited to wall posters and occasional news broadcasts with commentary.

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REPORT NO.

PAGE NO.

7.

Gorki (E4400 - N5615)

In late 1944, there was a local Antifa school in Gorki, which was used primarily as a testing ground to screen out those PWs who might be capable of higher and further instruction. At that time the school was attended by about 300 PWs of mixed nationality. Selected students were sent from this school to the main school in Moscow for a complete Antifa course. All lectures at this school were given by German speaking Soviet officers. It is not known to USFA sources how long this school was kept in operation, or how long the actual period of training lasted.

Talitsa (E4219 - N5631)

(See also report from 7854th MID No. R-527-48, subject: Special PW Camp for Antifa Training in Talitsa, dated November 1948.) As of December 1947 there was an Antifa school located several hundred meters east of the village of Talitsa. The entire school was under the supervision of an unknown Russian and was divided into two sections, one for Germans and one for Austrians. The Austrian Section was headed by GRUENBERG who conducted the first two sessions of the school. Other Austrian instructors were Johann EICHINGER, formerly resident in Vienna, who conducted classes 7 and 8, Johann SCHLOEGEL, who conducted classes 5 and 6, and Kamillo NEGER, who conducted classes 3 and 4 and is reportedly now back in Vienna where he is employed by the "Society for the Cultivation of Cultural and Economic Relations between Austria and the Soviet Union". At the period of source's observation the school was attended by Austrian and German nationals only, but it is believed that Hungarians and Italians had formerly been instructed there. Each of the eight Austrian classes had 25 to 28 students and the total number of German students is reported to have been 600 to 700. The Austrian and German groups were instructed separately, but were permitted to mingle at mealtime and during off-duty hours. Students were not guarded closely and were given officers' food rations. They lived in clean barracks and were provided beds with clean sheets and blankets.

The Austrian course began with a study of Austrian history with a Communist interpretation. Special emphasis was laid on the Austrian Social-Democrats of 1934 as the "Betrayers of Working Class Interest". Further courses were given in Russian history and the history of World War II, as well as the standard indoctrination on Marxism, Leninism-Stalinism, etc. A large library was available to students which was furnished not only with the Soviet and Communist newspapers currently published in Austria, the "Volksstimme" and the "Oesterreichische Zeitung", but also with the Austrian Socialist Party's principal daily paper, the "Arbeiter Zeitung".

Classes were held six days a week from 0800 hours to 1300 hours and from 1530 to 1830 hours. Students were obliged to do chores around camp on their day off. Periodic written examinations were given and toward the end of the course every student was rated by all his fellow students in one of three categories. The first class comprised those who were considered completely reliable for party purposes, the second class those who could be expected to do something for the party and the third class those who were completely unreliable.

General Antifa Activities in Various PW CampsCamp 7204/4, Borovsk, Polotovskaya Oblast (E5640 - N5944)

Between July and October 1947 this camp served as an assembly center for returning Austrian PWs who were obliged once a month to attend a political lecture on the failures of the present reactionary, capitalistic Austrian Government. About a thousand Austrians were processed during this period.

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REPORT NO. R-45-49

PAGE NO. 8.

Camp 7207/1, Krasnokamsk, Molotovskaya Oblast (E5539 - N5804)

In this camp the majority of the PW were Germans, and Antifa propaganda was much stronger than at Borovsk (see above) during the period of observation November 1947 to February 1948. Local instructors were Germans who had attended the Antifa school at Molotov. For Antifa purposes in this camp Austrian internees were organized separately from the Germans and attendance was compulsory at the weekly lectures.

Camp 7126/1, Nikolaev, Ukraine (E3201 - N4658)

During 1947 Antifa lectures were held regularly in the camp and attendance was compulsory for the 2500 internees. The chief Antifa "activist" was a German from Frankfurt an der Oder, WEINSTEIN, about 170 cms tall and 35 years old. A library of Communist literature was also available.

Ryazan (E3942 - N5438)

During 1945 and 1946 in the main PW camp at Ryazan, Antifa lectures were held once a week, but attendance was voluntary, an average audience consisting of fifty PWs. There was no Antifa instruction given other than the weekly lectures by PW "activists".

Camp No. 7108/3, Sarepta near Krasnoarmeysk (E4433 - N4831)

During the latter part of 1947 Antifa lectures were given in this camp at irregular intervals by visiting MVD officers on the subject of the future of Austria and of other countries. For instruction purposes the PW were divided into national groups and the lecture translated by an interpreter. Antifa courses were also given after working hours to interested volunteers.

Camp 165, Moscovskaya Oblast (precise location unknown)

During 1947 Antifa courses of two months duration were given in this camp. The "activists" were Austrians, chief among them Alois MUSCHITZ from Gross Steinbach, Land Styria, who was assisted by Franz KRAUTER from Linz, Upper Austria and Peter IENZ from Deutschlandsberg, Land Styria. Instruction in this school followed the usual lines.

Camp 7265, Volsk (E4730 - N5200)

In this camp during early 1948 weekly lectures were given to PW on standard Marxist topics and the iniquities of the Western Powers. The chief "activist" was a German PWTZ who had fled from Germany to the USSR early in the 1930's.

Camp 7171, Ushora (E4833 - N5626)

In this camp there was an Antifa committee composed of fifteen Germans, each of them assigned to a special branch of work: recruiting, propaganda, personnel, etc. Members of the committee received a salary of an extra 100 rubles a month. Lectures on standard topics were given on an average of once a week. Volunteers who showed special aptitude were sent to the main school in Moscow.

Camp 7466/8, believed to be at Khimler (E3728 - N5553)

Antifa lectures were given once a month in this camp by the local "activist" Robert LANGER, a Sudetan German during 1947.

Experiences of an MVD "Activist"

The following extract covers the working experiences of one "MVD" "activist" and Antifa instructor, an Austrian citizen who attended nine months schooling

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REPORT NO.

PAGE NO.

10

obedience to orders as a preliminary to practical party propaganda work or espionage for the NVD among other PW.

In general there seems to have been a tendency to conduct Antifa work among the PW along nationalist lines, dividing them for lecture purposes into separate groups according to their country of origin. In many camps lectures and discussions were held regularly and at frequent intervals, and in others Antifa instruction was given infrequently or not at all. In some camps participation in the Antifa training program was compulsory, while at others it was purely voluntary. These conditions seem further, not only to have varied from camp to camp, but to have fluctuated within one and the same camp at different periods. It has not been possible as yet to ascertain whether any clear, overall Soviet plan for general Antifa instruction among PW has existed, or even whether the lack of consistent planning for all PW and all camps is deliberate, or is to be interpreted as another indication of frequently observed Soviet incapacity to formulate and execute an orderly program.

The effects of Antifa training among Austrian PW in general seem to have been negligible. The frequently harsh and brutal treatment meted out to PW, together with the generally primitive living conditions in PW camps, has militated against any long-lasting enthusiasm for Communism or the Soviet Union that might momentarily be induced by the blandishments of an Antifa propagandist. The majority of participants in the Antifa training program seem to have been motivated primarily by a desire to improve their local living conditions or to alleviate their misery and have shown little inclination to act in behalf of Communism subsequent to their repatriation. Some graduates of the "Lenin" school have, upon their return to Austria, placed themselves at the disposal of U. S. Intelligence. Antifa instruction among Austrian PWs may, in conclusion, be said to have contributed to a mental "Denazification" on their part, but it did not succeed in kindling among them any permanent, positive spark of enthusiasm for the Communist cause.

APPROVED:

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